

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:

WT Docket No. 11-22

Extending the EBS Substantial Service Deadline

To: The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

SUPPORTING COMMENTS OF THE OUTEACH™ NETWORK

The OUTEACH™ Network hereby offers its strong support for the extension request submitted by the Catholic Television Network and NEBSA. As the petitioners have pointed out, a number of factors have combined to prevent many EBS licensees from being able to complete their transition to the new band plan and begin providing service to their educational constituencies.

It is also the contention of The OUTEACH™ Network that the EBS “Substantial Service” deadline be suspended indefinitely based upon the current ecosystem surrounding questionable business practices and operating models by Clearwire Corporation based upon past FCC rulings that allowed Clearwire to monopolize the lease rights to the EBS spectrum, the resignation of key Clearwire board members, including Founder and CEO Craig McCaw, and the overall lack of oversight and sensible policy surrounding transition of the EBS.

It is quite clear that the EBS is well suited for release 8 3GPP LTE (4G) technology. It is also quite clear that majority Clearwire owner Sprint could have a say in how the EBS upper and lower band segments will be allocated and transitioned (to LTE) to support interoperable 700MHz and 2.5GHz networks in the United States.

While it is important that the upper and lower band EBS be made available for Clearwire investors Sprint, Comcast, Time Warner and Bright House Networks to maintain competition and keep consumer costs down, it is more important that EBS license holders be allowed to use the Middle Band EBS to construct interoperable Educational Broadband Service networks similar to Northern Michigan University's (NMU) EBS network.

On February 10, 2011 President Obama traveled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to experience firsthand the operation of NMU's EBS network. This type of infrastructure (middle band EBS) is necessary to support existing and new Race to the Top programs, a revamped Universal Service Fund and President Obama's new Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative.

The overall inherent flaws now presenting in transition of the EBS (e.g. WiMax vs. LTE), coupled with how EBS networks like NMU's have become lost in the systemic inertia that is our telecommunications industry speaks volumes as to why ALL of the EBS infrastructure should be examined and scrutinized to develop and deploy sensible oversight and policy.

The FCC and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau should look to how they are developing and deploying our nationwide 700MHz Public Safety Network. Waivers were granted, new agencies formed that allowed regional public safety entities to build out LTE specific and interoperable public safety networks. The same thing needs to happen with our nationwide EBS spectrum.

For these reasons, The OUTEACH™ Network supports the waiver request of CTN and NEBSA and urges the Commission to grant the waiver as expeditiously as possible and consider permanent suspension of the EBS substantial service deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

The OUTEACH™ Network

By_____/s/_____

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